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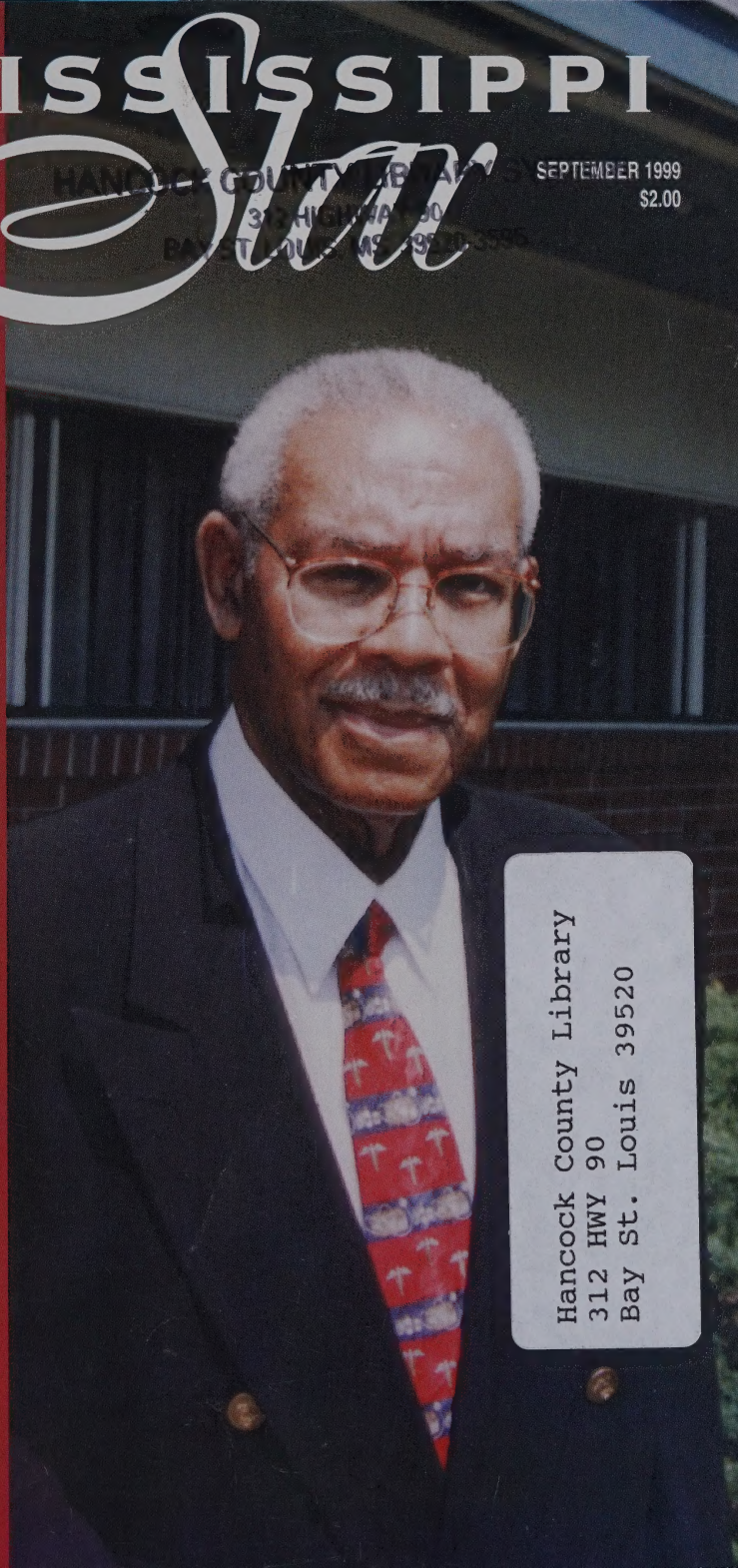

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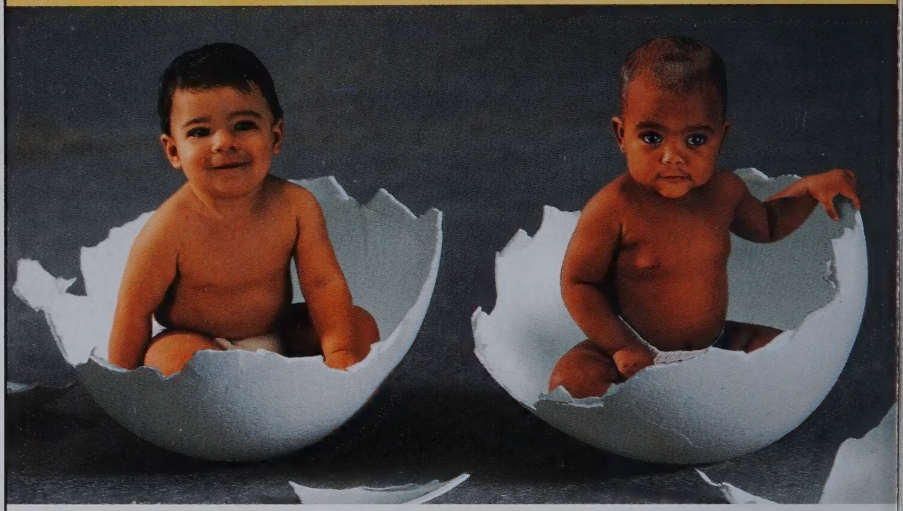

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MISSISSIPPI Star

VOL. 4 NO. 1 SEPTEMBER 1999

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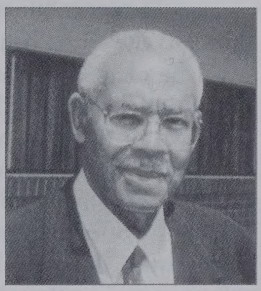

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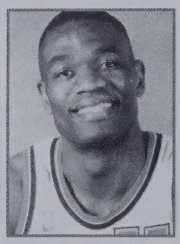

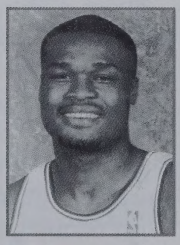

Popular NBA Players and their teammates to play in the Mississippi Coast Coliseum (page 29)

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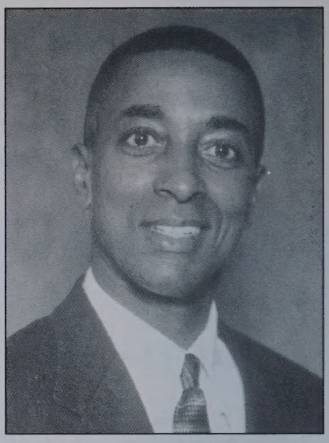
# PUBLISHER'S PAGE



*Maurice Singleton*

Experts in the area of small businesses have a cliché to project success. They say: "If you can make it through the first couple of years, you'll be okay." Another cliché goes something like this: "It'll get easier after two or three years." Being self-employed now for three years, I have earned the right to offer a cliché of my own. I offer an amended version of the latter: "It'll get a little less difficult after two or three years." I don't see the word 'easy' or any form of it anywhere in the equation.

But I LOVE IT! I wouldn't have it any other way. The pressures, the challenges, the fun, the writing, the meeting of so many interesting people. I love it. I have even enrolled in graduate courses to improve my skills. I simply enjoy what I do.

About a year ago, a young fellow about twelve years old came up to me and helped me put into perspective one of the impacts of what I do. He said to me, "You've got your own magazine. Before you, I didn't know anybody with their own magazine." Then he went on to tell me what he wanted to do with his life. "I want to own my own restaurant when I grow up," he explained.

What he didn't say, but what I heard loud and clear was, "If you can have your own magazine, I can have my own restaurant."

"I want to be one of your first customers," I said to him. "You be sure to let me know where you're located. I want to be there for your Grand Opening."

This young man may grow up to open his own restaurant, or he may grow up and go to college and find a cure for AIDS someday. What impressed me the most about this young man was that he was at least thinking about what he may want to do later in life? He may have been dreaming aloud, but dreaming is very healthy. There's another cliché that goes something like this: "If you can dream it, you can make it happen."

I hope the young man continues to dream and that others hear about his dreaming and they begin to dream about what they want to do with their lives. It's interesting to see how much a little positive attitude can have on one's outlook.

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## Letters to the Publisher

should be 100 words or less.

**Star Calendar:** Events of interest to South Mississippians should be submitted on your organization's letterhead, specifying the date, time, place of event and a number of contact. Submissions should be received by the twentieth day of the preceding month. Be sure to include a daytime telephone number.

Mail submissions to

*Mississippi Star,* P.O. Box 2651, Bay St. Louis, MS 39521.

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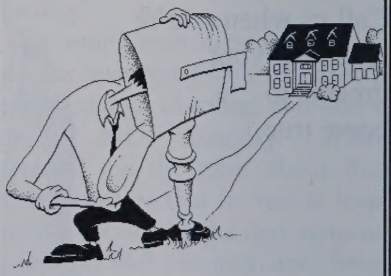

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# *Something to Pray About*

*by Stacy James Mackey*

Have you ever reminisced over you life and asked yourself, "How did I get here?" I found myself flipping through the pages of my high school yearbook.

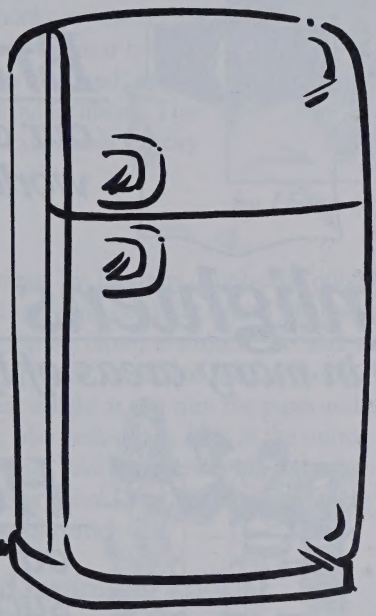
Wow! I've been out of high school 17 years. I can barely remember those days.

I was reading comments about what I thought I wanted to be and do. "Stacy plans to study Architectural Engineering in college. She'd also like to travel all over Europe. When asked for her motto, she said, 'Always give 100%, and keep reaching for the top.'" Ha ha. Did I say that? Well, I did go off to college but I allowed my parents to talk me into majoring in Management Engineering. They told me that designing bridges and freeways was similar to architecture. Hated it! After two years, I transferred to an architecture program against my parents wishes and they cut me off financially. I was young and broke but determined. I found that I loved the graphic design part of school but I could care less how the building got put together. While I got A's in art, I flunked foundations, wood, brick and physics — all your basic structural requirements. Aren't you glad I didn't design your dream home.

I remember the day I dropped out of college. I had worked on this model for weeks. It was a huge portion of my semester grade. I was so poor that I couldn't afford to buy all the fancy wood and cardboard the other students were using. I substituted popsicle sticks, cheap balsa wood and cardboard from the meat boxes behind the grocery store. My Volkswagon Bug wasn't working that day (one of many days) so me and my semester long project boarded the city bus. Bump after bump I began to get nervous as my project seemed to not be taking the ride well. After one bump too many, I was in tears as my stop approached and I no longer had a project to submit for my grade. My professor was not sympathetic to my sob story. After an almost nervous breakdown. I dropped out of school for a while.

Sometimes we do fall short of our dreams and goals. I've learned that when I strive to be all that I can be in Christ, I don't focus on what could have been. Currently, I'm a full-time mom, who works part-time for an advertising agency and writes on occasion. While I still may sometimes reflect on If I could have been a great architect, I wouldn't trade that career for the life that God has blessed me with right now. "But godliness with contentment is great gain," 1 Timothy 6:6.

Where are you right now? I hope I've given you something to pray about.



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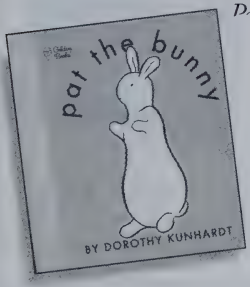
# BOOK STOP

*by Herta Smith*

I hope everyone had a great August and is settling back into their school routines. Reading for fun and enrichment is now even more important than ever. The books reviewed this month are a mix of classics and new books for your reading enjoyment. Every month all the books reviewed in the *Mississippi Star* will be donated to a local public library. This month the books will go to the Bay St. Louis Public Library on Highway 90. Happy Reading!

## Ages: 3 months to 3 years



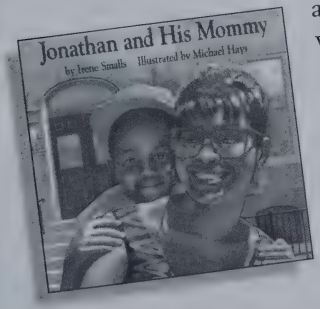

*Pat the Bunny*, written by Dorothy Kunhardt, published by olden Books and in continuous print since 1940 has sold over million copies. *Pat the Bunny* is a touch, feel and see book, d is the perfect lap book. Hold that baby or toddler in your and watch their delight as you turn the pages and they get feel the bunny, play peek-a-boo, look in the mirror and do veral other activities. Your little person will go back to *Pat the nny* over and over again. Don't be surprised if they give this ok its own special name!

## Ages: 4 years to 6 years (pre and beginning readers)

*Jiggle Wiggle Prance*, written by Sally Noll and published by Puffin Books is in glorious color. The animals jump, run, race, skit, trip and pace throughout this phonics-friendly little book. Your pre-reader will learn the animals and their rhyming antics by heart and will proudly show off their newfound reading skills for you, family and friends.

## Ages: 6 years to 8-9 years

*Jonathan and His Mommy*, written by Irene Smalls, illustrated by Michael Hays, published by Little, Brown and Company. Jonathan and his Mom live in a big city and one of Jonathan's favorite things to do is to go walking and talking with his Mom. Jonathan and his Mom do not take ordinary walks! They take giant steps, they do crisscross steps, they move to reggae steps. You will feel the energy of Jonathan's neighborhood, and you will feel the love Jonathan and his Mom have for each other, their friends and their neighborhood. This is a great read aloud book for a reading child to read to a younger sibling or friend.



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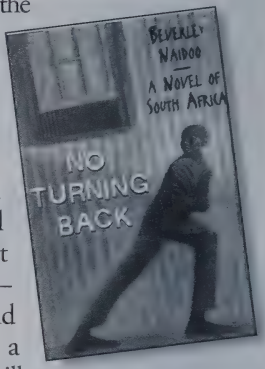
## Ages: 8 years to 12 years

*No Turning Back, A Novel of South Africa*, written by Beverle Naidoo, published by HarperCollins. *No Turning Back* was on both the Guardian Book Award and Smarties Book Prize shortlists.




Finding a book that will appeal not just to your avid 8 – 12 year old reader but a book that will appeal to any child that age is a tough order. *No Turning Back* fills that order. This book is based on real life stories of young, black, South Africans living on the streets of Johannesburg. The main character, Sipho, runs away from home to find a life for himself when he realizes his dreams will never come true living in a segregated township. Ms. Naidoo makes life in South Africa come alive for the young reader. Fiction-based on fascinating real life stories make this a real page-turner. I highly recommend this book for a child that has yet to discover the joy of reading. This book will draw them in and they will care about Sipho and his dreams.

I hope everyone has a great September; see you in October (scary stories and make your own great costumes will be highlighted).

*P.S. Check out the web site Bedtime.com. It has great bedtime stories, puzzles and short stories for all ages of children.*

*Herta Smith resides in Carrolton, Texas.*

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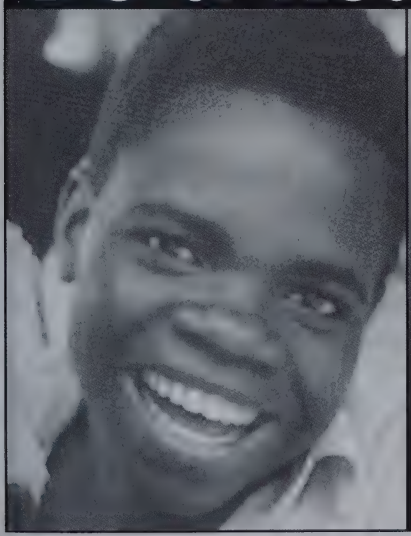

## Don't Get Wasted On Drugs.

# Co-op Benefits Students and Employers Alike

*by Jeanie Lunsford*

When Clifton Anderson of Estabrook Ford asked Moss Point High School auto body teacher Edwin Sherman for help finding a student to work during the summer and after school, he never expected to find someone like Ralph Montgomery. "It started out that I just needed someone to clean the shop; I didn't think I'd get anybody we could teach these skills (to) the way we have with Ralph," said Anderson, body shop manager for the Pascagoula car dealership. "He's been a real asset to us."

Montgomery, the son of Edna and Edward Montgomery, is a Co-op student in the Moss Point High School Vocational-Technical Education Center. Co-op students work approximately 15 hours a week for both a salary and class credit.

"Our goal is to link students with jobs that fit their chosen careers and the classroom experiences they have had to date," said the center's director Dr. Jane McCoy. "Ralph had taken a two-year auto body course with Mr. Sherman, who is an expert in the field. Ralph plans to go to a technical college and make this his career, so our Co-op teacher Ms. Clarke was delighted when she was able to find him a job where he would apply the tech prep concept of hands-on experience."

According to Ralph, his experience at Estabrook Ford couldn't be better. He started this summer working full-time doing taping, sanding and priming, preparing cars for the painters. Priming cars was his favorite, because it helped him improve the painting skills he had already begun developing in class. "It was all fun to do," said Ralph. "It was exciting

*Continued on Page 19...*

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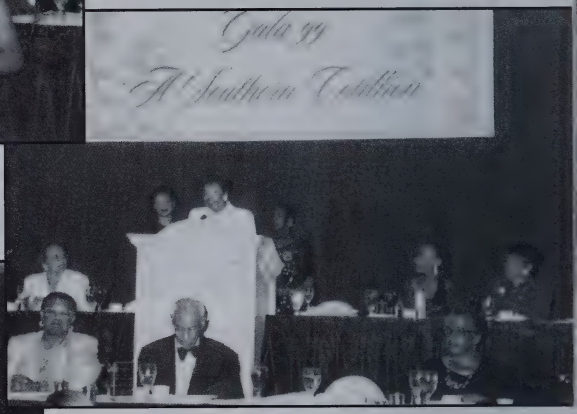
# The 1999 Black Won

## It Was a Family Affair. . . .

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANTHON

*Martha Shaffers*



*Podium Guests*

*Vickie Winans making a joyful noise on the convention floor.*

*Award recipients*

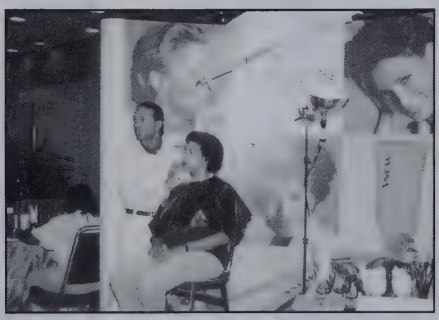
# n's Expo of the South
## Should Have Been There

GOMERY AND GREG WILSON

*Black Women's Expo executive, Merry Green with Gala speaker, Susan Taylor of Essence Magazine and Robert Boone, Isle of Capri vice president.*

*Expo ribbon-cutting ceremony at Mississippi Coast Coliseum.*

*Gospel singer Yolanda Adams*



*Avon makeover booth was one of several national vendors on site.*

*Comedian-Activist Dick Gregory stimulating deeper thinking and exploring novel ideas.*

# The 1999 Black Women's Expo of the South

*Tessie Tims of Fashion Touch Boutique (third from left) and Hair Salon and local models showcasing current fashion.*

*Continued from Page 14...*

because there were new things everyday."

Apparently, the staff was as pleased to have Ralph, as he was to be there. "Mr. Clifton [Anderson] and Doug and the other staff members were very nice to me; they welcomed me with open arms," said Ralph.

Anderson hadn't expected someone who was still a student to already know how to perform highly skilled tasks. But Ralph came in with a great deal of experience, gained through his Vocational Education classes, and was ready and eager to learn everything the staff could teach him. "No matter what we give him to do – you turn him loose and he'll just do it like he's been doing it for a long time," said Anderson. Because Ralph's mentors are skilled experts who have been working in this field most of their lives, says Anderson; Ralph is constantly learning and improving.

Now that Anderson knows about the Moss Point Co-op program, he says Estabrook would like to hire other students in the future. "We've been really happy with it," said Anderson.

Ralph, who plans to go to the University Technical Institute in Texas next year says that the Moss Point Vocational-Technical Center's Co-op Program has really helped him prepare for the future. "I enjoy Co-op; it's a great class," said Ralph. "It helps you out on your job skills, helps you find jobs. The teachers are great; they help you with interview skills. It gets you started off; then when you graduate you have a good job or the skills to find one."

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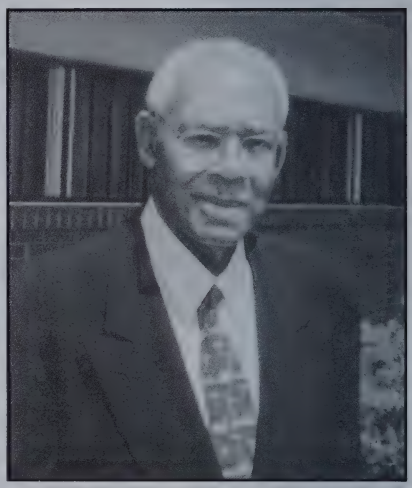
# Dr. Gilbert R. Mason, M.D.

## *A Special Person with a Timely Calling*

*by Maurice E. Singleton, Jr.*

***Mississippi Star** is paying special tribute to Dr. Gilbert R. Mason, M.D. in the Anniversary Issue for his courageousness and commitment to the citizens of South Mississippi during a period of great risk.*



Dr. Gilbert R. Mason, M.D.

Dr. Gilbert R. Mason, Sr. is a name that is consistent with the civil rights era in Mississippi. It is a name that is immediately associated with the civil rights movement in Biloxi. The name is practically synonymous with the expression, *"wade-in"*, which was coined during the late 1950s when Dr. Mason, Dr. Felix Dunn of Gulfport, and other members of the community protested police enforcement of a practice that prevented Black citizens from exercising their rights as citizens to enjoy Biloxi's beaches.

In 1959, during the first of four *Wade-Ins*, Dr. Mason and the other protesters were threatened; they were told that if they didn't leave the beach, they would be removed. He was called in by the executive committee of the local hospital, which was entertaining the notion of putting him off staff. But Dr. Mason would not relent. He was beginning to understand his mission and his purpose in life.

A native of Jackson, Mississippi, Dr. Mason had left the state in the mid-1940s to attend college at Tennessee

State University for undergraduate studies and Howard University Medical School. Being a leader was something he had been most of his life. He was one of the first Black Eagle Scouts in Jackson; and he had been the president of his class all four years at Tennessee State University. To become a leader in the community was something that evolved.

"A physician should be more than a practitioner of the healing arts," Dr. Mason explained. "He should be a teacher. He should be a leader. He should be involved in his church, in his community and in his school.

"I believed in the constitution," Dr. Mason added. "It was no doubt that I would reach out to embrace and secure those rights."

In 1963, the courts decided that denying Black citizens access to public beaches was unconstitutional. The four-year struggle had thrust Dr. Mason into the national spotlight and to the front of the civil rights struggle in Mississippi. He became the Biloxi Branch of the NAACP's first president.

During the late 1950s and early 1960s, being a civil rights leader in Mississippi carried with it many dangers. The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan were infamous for their bombings of the homes of those who posed threats to the status quo. The Citizens Council and The Mississippi Sovereignty Commission had also gained notoriety for their less-obvious ways of destroying the lives of civil rights leaders by ambushing their means of making a living for their families.

"I received many threats," said Dr. Mason. "It didn't really bother me. It bothered me, but strangely, I never had a fear of being killed. I had an awareness; for example, they firebombed my old office, and they burned crosses on my yard when I moved on Fayard Street. And the wall was shot into; and my car was burned on the beach. But I never had the fear. My friends did; and so the black men of Biloxi formed a cadre of protection like the secret service guards the president of the United States. Day and night.

"When I would make house calls, I'd call a number and they'd meet me for house calls. During all times of the night. I'd get up for a delivery, and they would meet me there. And that went on from 1960 to 1964."

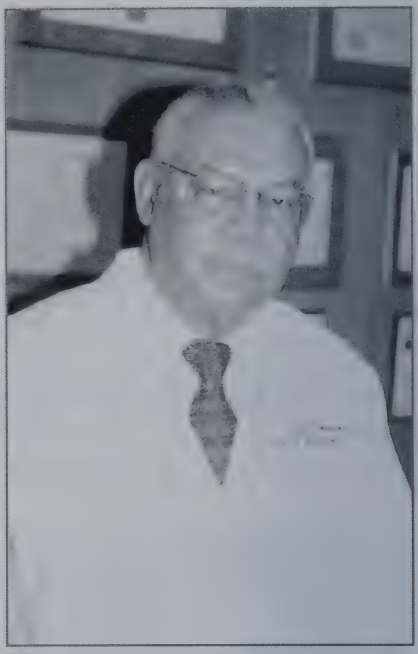
During that time, a good friend of Dr. Mason's was gunned down, shot in the back in Jackson. Medgar Evers had been in Biloxi to lend support to the *1963 Wade-In.*

"Medgar was shot three days after he left my house in a hurry on a Sunday morning," Dr. Mason recalled. "He would have been here, not to participate, but to provide bonds and what have you for the *'63 Wade-In.* Both Dr. Dunn and I told Medgar that he needed protection; he refused it. I would never refuse my friends' generosity.

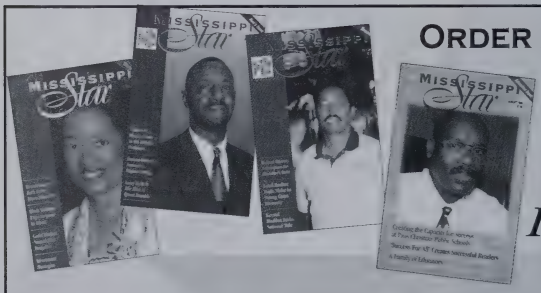
"We had a list of twelve people who were going to be killed: Felix (Dr. Dunn) was on it; I was on it; Medgar was on it; R.L.T. Smith, Jr. of Jackson; there were about twelve of us. We had a reliable information source.

"I don't know what other communities did, but this community protected my family and me," Dr. Mason recalled. "Many times I didn't know where my protection was, but they were there. I

had to go pick up people who worked in white neighborhoods during that era – who were afraid to go home. And I have driven during the middle of the night to pick them up by myself. People just had that confidence that if we could just get in contact with Dr. Mason; he's going to respond in some way. And that reputation, I think, prevailed during those thirty-four years and eight months that I was president. *'If you call him, he's going to come.'"*



*Since 1993, Dr. Mason has served the Biloxi Branch of the NAACP as President Emeritus. During the past two years he has been working on his memoirs with Dr. Pat Smith, Associate Professor of History at the University of Southern Mississippi. The book is expected to be released in August 2000.*

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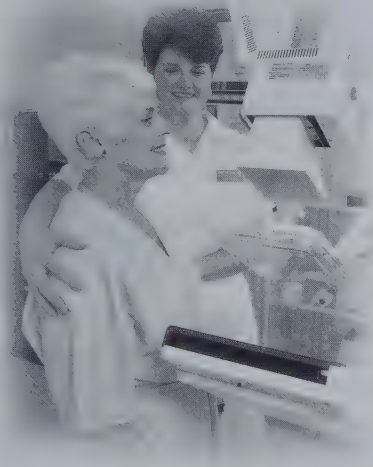

***Who is at risk?***

Women in the following categories:

- Over 40 years of age
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- Early onset of menstruation
- Late age of menopause
- Never had children (or late at first live birth)

***What do I look for?***

Breast changes that persist, such as a lump, thickening, swelling, dimpling, skin irritation, distortion, retraction, scaliness, pain or tenderness of the nipple are warning signals for breast cancer. If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, contact your physician immediately.

***What should I do?***

Perform monthly self-examinations, and make sure your doctor gives you a breast examination once a year. Mammography can detect breast cancer up to two years before you or your doctor can feel a lump. So, once you turn 40, have a mammogram every year.

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# BEYOND THE APPEARANCE OF JUSTICE

*by Judge John H. Whitfield*

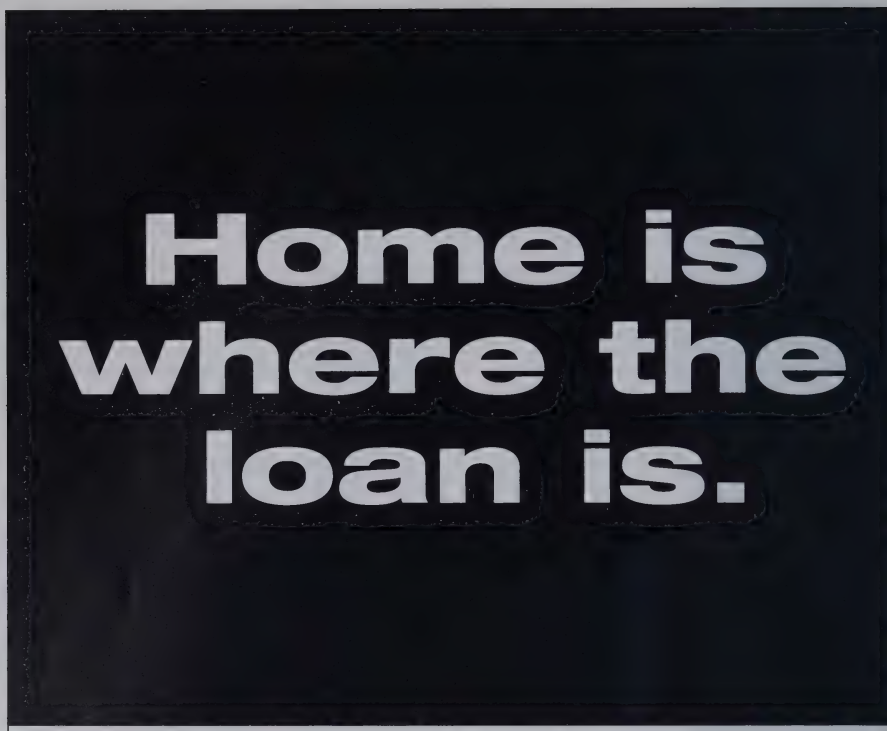
For many individuals, achieving professional goals and aspirations are the consequences of many years of hard work, dedication, and dreams. Yes, dreams! All that is concrete began as an abstract thought which developed into an intellectual concept before reaching the level of reality.

As youngsters, we dreamed that one day we would become a famous teacher, movie star, scientist, writer, poet, pilot, astronaut, or athlete. For me, however, my dream was to become a lawyer. This idea took root at the age of eight. In 1988, my life long dream came to fruition when I was sworn in as a member of the Mississippi Bar. All of my hard work had paid off.

Along the way there were many obstacles. Chief among them was an apparent misconception which I had concerning the role of lawyers in America. I believed that lawyers were society's keepers of justice—that the primary role of a lawyer was to seek a just result in resolving all matters of private or public concern. In essence, a lawyer was to ensure that justice was available to all who sought redress within the civil and criminal justice system.

Needless to say, my bubble soon burst. After completing my first year of law school at Valparaiso University School of Law in Valparaiso, Indiana, my second year started off with a bang. Life as a second year law student could not have been better. However, while reviewing my tort assignment for the coming week, I read a case written by one of the most well known and well respected jurist of all time, Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Justice Holmes stated that within the American legal system, the Courts and the attorneys should not be concerned with providing equal justice to all but only with ensuring the appearance that equal justice is available to all. This particular quote changed my life forever. In fact, after pondering the actual meaning of Justice Holmes' statement, I became very distraught and disenchanted with the American system of justice. The goal that I had worked so hard to achieve did not appeal to me anymore. Everything negative that I had ever heard about the system, in my mind, had now been validated. The system was not one that sought to reach a just result. The system was not fair to the rich and poor alike. Lady Justice was not only blind she was incapacitated and a mere fiction of America's imagination. I did not want to be party to such a system . I decided to withdraw

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from law school. I no longer wanted to be a lawyer.

After learning of my decision the Dean of Valparaiso University School of Law and my property professor, the late Charles Gromerly—the person who had more to do with my present professional development than any one else— spoke to me about my decision to withdraw. After much discussion, both convinced me of one thing—if I chose to turn away from the legal profession altogether, I could best be assured that actual justice would not be realized. To the extent that I chose to bring about justice for all, I alone could guarantee that the system provided something more than a mere appearance that justice was available to those seeking it.

Accordingly, after much soul searching and reflection, I decided to remain in law school to complete the task which I had begun many, many years before. I also resigned myself to the proposition that once allowed to join the esteemed ranks of the most noble profession known to man, I would make it my personal responsibility to do all that was within my power to ensure that actual, not perceived, justice became the watch-word of the day. I was convinced that part and parcel of the problems we have experienced in America over the years was due in large part to many American citizens feeling that justice was nothing more than an abstract concept which had no real or concrete application in their daily lives. The absence of actual justice in the lives of many who turned to our system of justice for help coupled with the irrefutable belief that one could not obtain justice within our system had turned the American legal system into no more than a horrible nightmare for many. Attorneys and judges have a duty to erase the negativity associated with the American legal system, and to raise the veil of mystery and uncertainty that seems to surround it.

Attorneys should work hard to ensure that their clients receive the best possible legal representation. This includes more than simply providing zealous representation. It entails communicating with clients regularly, in person, over the telephone, and by mail. It also means keeping clients informed about the developments of their case in a timely fashion. But most importantly, attorneys should always remember that regardless of the total number of clients which they represent, each client looks upon their case as the most important in the world.

Since taking the bench, I have tried to keep these principles at the forefront of everything that I do. It is easy to lose sight of the importance of a given case because of the overwhelming size of one's caseload. It is difficult to articulate, each time, the reasoning behind a given decision. Sometimes we, as judges, become very routine in the handling of our dockets and those that appear before us may leave feeling as if their case was not given due consideration. You see what I have learned is that justice is not solely result oriented. What is just, right, and fair oftentimes has more to do with how one is treated by the administrators of the legal system than anything else. ***Lawyers and judges must work exceptionally hard to get beyond the mere appearance that justice is available to all.*** Instead we must ensure that justice — actual, real, and concrete — flows from every stream, river, and tributary which makes up the

American civil and criminal justice system.

Judges must work to open their courts more and to work with the media in disseminating accurate information regarding the happenings within their courts. Judges should hold annual — if not more frequent — community meetings so that the public can get to know them better and have an opportunity to ask questions about the operation of the court system. Judges should encourage local school districts to utilize the court as a living educational laboratory.

Judges should be patient, courteous and considerate when dealing with potential jurors because without them our system will cease to function. All judges should work to support one another by establishing mentor relationships between new members to the bench and those with some experience. If the public sees that judges are serious about improving the interworkings of the judicial system, they are more likely to believe that the justice they seek is more than an illusion. They will be more able to see a justice that is real, true and available to all regardless of race, gender, socioeconomic status, or religious affiliation. However, if this is to become a true reality for all — something more than what Holmes described — it will be up to each and every person who has accepted the calling to serve in such a capacity. In essence, it is up to each lawyer, judge, clerk, paralegal, and secretary to make justice a reality for all.

You, too, must do your part. Hold us to the highest professional standards and do not settle for less. In the end, you must know your rights, exercise the duties associated therewith and assume responsibility to ensure that justice prevails for all Americans.

** Nothing in this article is intended to be interpreted as legal advice. For legal advice, consult an attorney of your choice. "From the Bench with Judge John H. Whitfield" is a public information service jointly sponsored by WBSL 1190 AM and "The Mississippi Star. "From the Bench with Judge John H. Whitfield" airs each Thursday at 4:00 pm on WBSL 1190 AM.*


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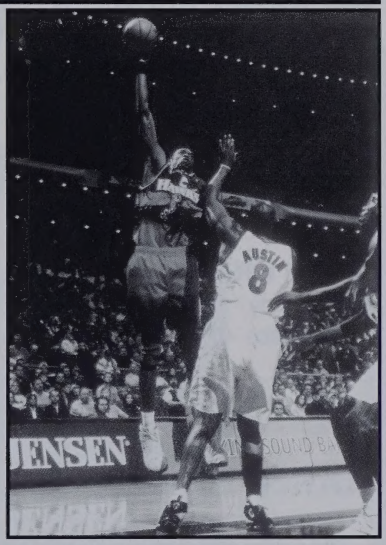
# NBA Game Coming to the Mississippi Gulf Coast

The Atlanta Hawks and the Boston Celtics will play an exhibition game at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum on October 25. The game brings together two great coaching minds in Atlanta's Lenny Wilkens, the NBA's winningest coach and the Celtics' Rick Pitino. The game concludes four days of activities on the Coast.

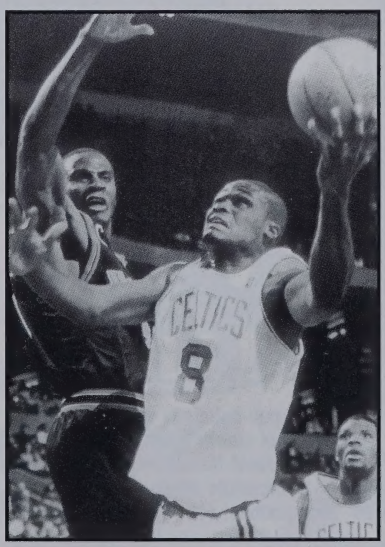
A three-on-three basketball tournament is one of the highlights of the four-day event, with the championship game to be played prior to the NBA game. Interested teams should call Roundball Classic Promotions at 404-762-1096.

Atlanta's Dikembe Mutombo, Mookie Blalock and Alan Anderson and Boston's Antoine Walker are only a few of the players who will be sharpening their skills for the first NBA season of the new millennium.

For ticket information, call the Mississippi Coast Coliseum box office.




Dikembe Mutombo, the NBA's leading shot-blocker.




Antoine Walker, the Celtics' high-powered offensive playmaker.

# Calendar

## NAACP Regularly Monthly Meetings

### Hancock County Branch
2nd Tuesday
Valena C. Jones Methodist Church

### Gulfport Branch
1st Monday
Isiah Fredericks
Community Center

### Biloxi Branch
4th Thursday
Branch Office - Main Street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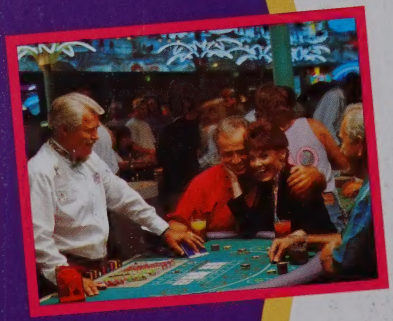

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